



South Australian Aviation Museum
66 Lipson Street, Port Adelaide, S.A. 5015
Ph: 08 8240 1230

SAATAS Test Rig

About SAATAS

In June 1963, Nicholas Air Charter Pty Ltd based in Melbourne amalgamated with SA Air Taxis. In July 1965 SAAT acquired Muir Aviation at Darwin, established new bases at Alice Springs and Darwin and changed its operating name to SA and Territory Air Services (SAATAS). In 1969, SAATAS bought out Chartair Aviation.

The Test Rig



The picture shows the test rig with SAAM's Lycoming engine mounted.



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The test rig was used to test aircraft engines after servicing or rebuilding. It consists of a Austin A70 Hampshire Chassis with the body reversed. The cabin was fitted with an engine mounting frame, fuel tank and aircraft instruments on the dash. The aircraft engine was fitted to the rig and it was wheeled outside for a test run. It was used mainly with Continental, Lycoming and Gypsy Queen 70 engines.

The engine test rig was built by Mike Duller, John Magee, Vic Hammond and Bill Richardson from the engine overhaul shop then located at Port Road, Hindmarsh. It was used by SAATAS between 1970 and 1973 at West Beach Airport. In 1974, the engine overhaul workshop was moved to Parafield Airport.. The test rig remained in use at Parafield until 1978.

